THE KHATANA GUJARS (A HISTORICAL COMPENDIUM OF ORIGINS, LINEAGE, and GEOPOLITICAL INFLUENCE)

I. **Traditional and Mythohistorical Origins**

The Legend of Raja Kedar Nath : In Mukhtasar Tarikh-e-Gurjar (p. 143), Rana Ali Hassan Chauhan posits that the Khatana Gujars descend from Raja Kedar Nath, a monarch said to have engaged Alexander the Great in 325 BC.While mainstream historiography identifies Raja Porus as the primary adversary of the M acedonian forces on the banks of the Jhelum, local traditions often associate tribal progenitors with this pivotalera of resistance against Western invasion.

II. **The Gutiana Connection:** Mufti Abdul Ghani Al-Azhari Al-Shashi, writing in Qadeem Tarikh-e-Gujar (p. 38), references the Tarikh-e-Iran-e-Bastan to link the Khatana tribe to the ancient Gutiana people of Mesopotamia, who ruled the city of Urdak. According to this tradition, "Gutiana" is the archaic form of "Khatana," suggesting a lineage that stretches back to the earliest Semitic and post-Diluvian epochs.

III. **Sacred Genealogy (The Lineage Tree)**
Tribal Ancestry of the Khatana:

Nuh (Noah
↓
Sam (Shem
↓
Lud
↓
Amleeq
↓
Umayam
↓
Ibrahim (Abraham
↓

III. **Geographical Dispersion**

Khata, Qatan, and Katana: Citing the classical geographical compendium Mu'jam al-Buldan (Vol. 3), Al-Shashi identifies several historical settlements founded by or named after the Khatana tribe:

i. **Khata (Katana**): An ancient settlement in the regions of Oman, established by the Banu Katana.

ii. **Qatan**: A village located in the Ghouta of Damascus, named for the Arab tribe that settled thefertile plains of Syria.

iii. **Katana (Madinat al-Qatan**): A significant coastal city in Sicily (Siqiliya) during the period ofArab influence, reflecting the far-reaching maritime and migratory presence of the tribe.

IV. **The Hittite and Trans-Caucasian Links**: Al-Shashi further theorizes a
connection between the Khatana and the Hittites (Khetan) of Asia Minor. He suggests that the tribe migrated toward Atana, an ancient territory linked to the Hyksos the Semitic rulers of ancient Egypt. Geographically, this is supported by the existence of the Valley of Atana in the Sulaymaniyah region of Kurdistan and the fortress of Gargamish (Carchemish) in Gurjistan (Georgia), which stand as monuments to the tribe's historical hegemony in the Near East and the Caucasus.

V. **19th-Century Historiography**:

The Saka and Khotan Modern historians have often sought to reconcile tribal oral traditions with linguistic and archaeological evidence, particularly regarding the Kingdom of Khotan:

Linguistic Derivation:

a. **The tribal name "Khatana**" is frequently linked to "Khotana," theKharosthi designation for the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Khotan (modern Hotan).
b. **The Saka Identification**: The Khatana Gujars are widely identified with the Saka (Scythian) people.
c. **The rulers of Khotan governed the Tarim** Basin from approximately 300 BC to 600 AD, coinciding with the era of Sisicottas (Sasigupta), who held the fortress of Aornos during Alexander's campaign.
d. **The Hindu Shahis**: Between the 9th and 11th centuries, Khatana rulers established a powerful state in Kabul and Gandhara. This includes the celebrated resistance of Raja Jayapala and Anandapala against the incursions of Mahmud of Ghazni.
e. **Political Legacy in Modern India and Hazara:** The Khatana Gujars emerged as a preeminent clan across North India, particularly in Punjab, Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Royal States: In the 18th century, the tribe exercised sovereignty over the princely states of Rajorgarh (Rajasthan) and Samthar (Uttar Pradesh).
f. **Hazara and the North**: The tribe has a deep-rooted history in Hazara-Gujran. In the **17th century**, **Nawab Musa and Esa** served as Satraps of the region. Later, from 1804 to 1837, **Musharraf Muqaddam** ruled Hazara-Gujran as a strategic ally of the **Sikh General Hari Singh Nalwa**.
g. **The Swat State**: A notable modern descendant, Miangul Abdul Wadud (Bacha Sahib), founded and ruled the Princely State of Swat from 1917 to 1949, marking a final chapter of Khatana sovereign leadership in the frontier regions.